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December 16, 2003

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Re: Application of HOSI, Katumasa, ISHIWATARI, Kiyokazu & SUYAMA, Minoru  
STRAW TUBE, AND APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE  
SAME  
Assignee: SHOWA DENKO K.K.  
Our Ref: Q78692

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 09/813,945 (Confirmation No. 2830) filed March 22, 2001, of HOSI, Katumasa, ISHIWATARI, Kiyokazu, and SUYAMA, Minoru entitled STRAW TUBE, AND APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME, which claims benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/249,293 filed November 17, 2000.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification (24 pages), including the claims and abstract, 10 sheet(s) of drawings, and a copy of the Declaration (4 pages) as filed in the prior application. Also enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement and a PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) listing references cited by applicant and/or the examiner during prosecution of the prior application.

It is noted that the application contains Fig. 3(b) and corresponding disclosure, which were not expressly included in the parent application. It is submitted that Fig. 3(b) and the corresponding disclosure do not introduce new matter into the application, but rather further clarify what was already implicitly present in the parent application.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 3752.

The entire disclosure of the prior parent application, Application No. 09/813,945, filed March 22, 2001, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Priority/benefit is claimed from:

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Application No</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| JAPAN          | 2000-082971           | March 23, 2000     |
| JAPAN          | 2000-210372           | July 11, 2000      |
| U.S.           | 60/249,293            | November 17, 2000  |



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The priority documents were filed in parent Application No. 09/813,945. A copy of the sworn translation of Provisional Application No. 60/249,293 is submitted herewith.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

|                    |           |   |    |   |                   |   |         |   |                   |          |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----|---|-------------------|---|---------|---|-------------------|----------|
| Total claims       | <u>12</u> | - | 20 | = | <u>          </u> | x | \$18.00 | = | <u>          </u> | \$0.00   |
| Independent claims | <u>4</u>  | - | 3  | = | <u>          </u> | x | \$86.00 | = | <u>          </u> | \$86.00  |
| Base Fee           |           |   |    |   |                   |   |         |   |                   | \$770.00 |

**TOTAL FILING FEE**

**\$856.00**

A check for the statutory fee of \$856.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Attorneys for Applicant

By Bruce E. Kramer

Bruce E. Kramer

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